

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 00312 151647Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 0312

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SU, YU, AU

SUBJ: TITO COMMENTS TO KREISKY ON SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY AFFAIRS

1. IN COURSE OF MY CALL ON JANUARY 15, CHANCELLOR KREISKY VOLUNTEERED SOME OF OBSERVATIONS TITO HAD MADE TO HIM ON SOVIET COMMUNIST PARTY DEVELOPMENTS DURING KREISKY-TITO MEETING IN YUGOSLAVIA LAST MONTH (DECEMBER 28). TITO REPORTEDLY FEELS STRONGLY THAT ALL EFFORTS TO HAMMER OUT DOCUMENT FOR PROPOSED CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES, WHICH SUGGESTS SOVIET LEADERSHIP OF MOVEMENT, WILL CONTINUE TO MEET WITH FAILURE. IN FACT, ACCORDING TO TITO, LATEST THRUST OF STATEMENTS OF NUMBER OF WESTERN CPS, PARTICULARLY FRENCH CP, WILL CAUSE MORE TROUBLE FOR SOVIETS RE THEIR CONFERENCE EFFORT.

2. OTHER POINT TITO REPORTEDLY MADE WAS THAT HE HAD CONCLUDED THAT BREZHNEV, IN SPITE OF SUGGESTIONS TO THE CONTRARY, WILL STAY ON AS PARTY CHAIRMAN AFTER UPCOMING CONGRESS OF SOVIET CP SIMPLY BECAUSE ANY OTHER CHOICE WOULD TEND TO DESTABILIZE SOVIET INTERNAL SYSTEM AT TIME OF NEED FOR PARTY UNITY IN FACE OF DOMESTIC ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES.

3. KREISKY OFFERED AS HIS OWN ADDITIONAL REASON FOR SOVIETS STAYING WITH STATUS QUO WAS FACT SOVIET SYSTEM THUS FAR HAS NEVER FACED PROBLEM OF HAVING SIMULTANEOUSLY TWO SECRETARIES GENERAL IN GOOD STANDING:

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 00312 151647Z

ONE AS HEAD OF PARTY AND OTHER AS RETIREE WITH FULL

HONORS. SUCH SITUATION WOULD IN SHORT TERM TEND TO
MOVE TWO SECRETARIES INTO CONFRONTATION POSITION SINCE,
ACCORDING TO KREISKY, NEWCOMER WOULD AUTOMATICALLY HAVE
TO BE CRITICAL OF HIS PREDECESSOR'S STEWARDSHIP IN SOME
AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY, GIVEN OBVIOUS DIFFICULTIES
AND SHORTCOMINGS IN SOME FIELDS OF SOVIET DOMESTIC
AFFAIRS.BUCHANAN

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